

CRIME: A SERIOUS ISSUE IN OUR COUNTRY TODAY

(Mrs. CUBIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute).

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about a very serious issue in our country today—crime. With all of the freedoms we enjoy in our country today, if we as citizens do not have confidence in our judicial system to keep the criminals off the streets, we do not have total freedom, because we will always be looking over our shoulders or will be too scared to participate in social activities outside of our homes.

Many, many people feel this way today. And who can blame them—when they read stories about Clinton-appointed judges who side with the criminals and blame society. Like the Clinton judge who insisted that the killer had “socially redeeming values,” even though he stabbed his victim repeatedly, shot him twice, and laughed at the victim while he pled for his life.

This is wrong. Our justice system should protect the rights of crime victims—not invent newer and more expansive rights for criminal defendants. Our justice system should distribute justice, not liberal social experiments that coddle criminals.

We need to appoint judges who represent and understand America's values.

STOP PLAYING POLITICAL GAMES WITH THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. To quickly respond to my colleagues who spoke about Medicare, the congressional Republicans in this body do not want to fix Medicare. They, in fact, want to destroy Medicare. They proposed a \$270 billion cut in Medicare to pay for a \$245 billion tax break for the wealthiest Americans. Do not let us let them get away with it.

Mr. Speaker, on the front page of today's Washington Times, a Republican Senator says of congressional Republicans, “We have no agenda.”

Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of bipartisanship, I want to offer some assistance to my Republican colleagues. For starters, the Republican leadership can schedule a vote on raising the minimum wage in this Nation. Most families are working harder in a mad scramble to pay their bills every single week. They need a raise, and we should raise the minimum wage.

Today the minimum wage is at a 40-year low. Democrats have proposed boosting it by a mere 90 cents, but the Republican leadership continues to block any effort to bring forward a vote on the minimum wage. Let us do it, let us give hard-working Americans the raise that they need to take care of their families.

THE TIME IS RIGHT TO DO RIGHT: RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the time is always right to do right. And raising the minimum wage is the right thing to do.

This is not just an economic issue, Mr. Speaker, this is a moral issue. Hard working people deserve the right to earn a livable wage. The minimum wage is at a 40-year low. No one can live, much less support a family, on \$8,400 a year.

Mr. Speaker, stop playing politics with people's lives. Bring a clean minimum wage bill to this floor. Do not load it up and bring it down with your pet programs.

The American people, hard-working people, are watching and waiting. Raise the minimum wage.

CAN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AFFORD ANY MORE CLINTON-APPOINTED JUDGES?

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important things that a President, any President, does during his tenure is to fill the vacant Federal judgeships in the Federal judiciary. The other body does have the responsibility to “advise and consent,” but ultimately, the responsibility for who sits on the Federal bench is the President's.

President Clinton has a miserable track record for appointing judges. His picks are by and large doctrinaire liberals. Let's take the Judge Baer debacle.

Judge Baer, a Federal judge in New York, refused to admit into evidence 75 pounds of cocaine and 4 pounds of heroin even though the person caught with the drugs gave a full confession. His reasoning in the case was faulty at best, and implied that the New York City police were corrupt and wrong for investigating a clear case of probable cause involving a huge amount of drugs.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Clinton has already appointed 25 percent of all Federal judges. Can the American people afford any more?

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COMMENDING PRESIDENT CLINTON'S CALL TO CURB OVERFLIGHT NOISE ABOVE NATIONAL PARK UNITS

(Mrs. MINK of Hawaii asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, yesterday President Clinton announced

his commitment to our national parks by ordering that agencies protect them against noise intrusions from park overflights. I applaud this announcement as it joins a hard-fought battle I have waged for 6 years in the State of Hawaii on behalf of residents adjacent to parks, hikers and other park visitors, and precious indigenous species protected by our parks.

I urge the Federal Aviation Administration and National Park Service to act quickly to respond to the President's directive. For the parks in my State, the President has called for a notice of proposed rulemaking by the end of 1996.

My files are full of petitions and letters protesting noise disturbances caused by fixed-wing and helicopter flights over Haleakala National Park on the Island of Maui and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on the big island. Some hikers report that they can enjoy no peace in pristine areas because air tour operators seek to impress passengers by flying as close as possible to certain park features. Some have sent me pictures of helicopter tours flying close to canopies of trees above their houses, reporting of noise being generated that rudely awakens their children, drops and shatters dishes from kitchen counters, and denies them peace of mind. Some have presented logs documenting an average of 10 flyovers each day.

The President yesterday provided similar rationale for increased regulation of these flights by saying,

Aircraft flying at low altitudes over national parks can, if not properly managed, mar the natural beauty of the parks and create significant noise problems as well. The intrusion of such aircraft can interfere with wildlife (included endangered and threatened species), cultural resources and ceremonies, and visitors' enjoyment of parks, including the ability to experience natural sounds without interruption from mechanical noise.

I reintroduced legislation in this session of the Congress which aims to provide the relief the President has mandated in the State of Hawaii. H.R. 1369 would restrict flights over Hawaii's National Park System units and create flight-free corridors over certain areas. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1369, which would provide necessary relief for the people of Hawaii. And I once again commend the President for his statement that bolsters my efforts.

I welcome the efforts of the executive agencies, but in reality what is needed is legislative enactment of this protection for our national parks.

THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY IS HOLDING UP THE BUDGET BY INSERTING ANTI-ENVIRONMENTAL RIDERS IN THE BILL

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, Democrats and Republicans have almost come together on a budget that would